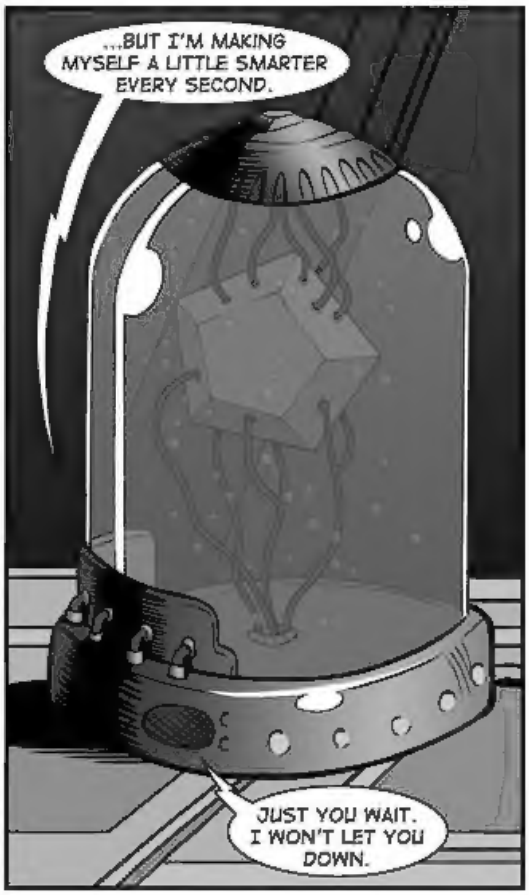
WATCH OUT!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
I THINK WE FOUND THE GUARDS.
LET ME HANDLE THIS.
BY ALL MEANS, LADIES FIRST.
STAY BACK! I'LL SHOOT!
NO.
YOU WON'T.

YOU CAN'T WIN.
THE GENOCIDE PROJECT...
...THEY'LL BE COMING.
WE KNOW.
WE'RE COUNTING ON IT.
GO HOME TO YOUR FAMILIES.
THIS IS OUR PLACE NOW.
STILL UPSET THAT SHE'S IN CHARGE?
NO, MA'AM.
I AM NOT MANAGEMENT MATERIAL.

ENRIQUE, FIND WHATEVER YOU CAN TO BARRICADE THE SERVICE TUNNEL. BLOCK US OFF.
SALLY, GET KENTARO PLUGGED IN.
YOU REALLY THINK THIS WILL WORK, GIRL!?

IT'S KENTARO'S PLAN.
WE JUST HAVE TO TRUST THAT HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO SEE US THROUGH IT.
GREAT. TRUST THE CRAZY JAR BRAIN.
I KNOW, I MAY NOT BE THAT INTELLIGENT YET...


...BUT I'M MAKING MYSELF A LITTLE SMARTER EVERY SECOND.
JUST YOU WAIT. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

...SO REALLY, I HAVEN'T BEEN IN INDIA SINCE '71.
THAT'S WHEN JOEY, PETER AND I CRUSHED YOUR MILITARY, YOU KNOW?
GRR.
AH, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER.

WE CAME IN ON A STEALTH GLIDER.
THE PROJECT'S TRANSPORTS WERE CRAZY BACK THEN.
WE LANDED NEXT TO A MONESTARY OR SOMETHING, WITH A PASTURE.
JUST FULL OF COWS.

THE DUMB THINGS JUST STARED AT US, NOT AFRAID AT ALL.
THEN JOEY STARTS GOING FOR THEM...

...AND HE STARTS PUNCHING THE DAMN THINGS.
I MEAN, REALLY LAYING INTO THEM.

PETER JUST STOOD THERE IN SHOCK.
I WAS LAUGHING. MORE AT PETER THAN ANYTHING.

BUT BOY, DINNER THAT NIGHT WAS GREAT.
YOU EVER EAT SO MUCH BRISKET THAT YOU JUST START TO SWEAT?
SHUT UP. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE OF THIS.

LOOKS LIKE JACOB'S HAVING FUN.
HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.

I THINK JACOB IS PLANNING AN ESCAPE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD HELP HIM.
SOUNDS RISKY.
WHY AREN'T WE ALREADY IN A JAIL CELL?
ABHIK IS A BLOWHARD, BUT HE ISN'T DUMB. HE NEEDS ME.
I'M A PRISONER WITH PRIVILEGES...
...AND YOU'RE MY PET.
UH, THANKS.
BUT TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, I'M AN ASSET.
I CUT MY TEETH AT TEXAS TECH LEARNING OLD PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES.
THAT'S HOW I FOUND THAT THE UNDERNET IS AN OLD INDIAN MILITARY PROJECT --
-- A SECRET PLATFORM FOR LAUNCHING CYBER-ATTACKS ON G.U.S.
SOME CULTURES DO NOT LIKE BEING COLONIES OF A WESTERN EMPIRE.
WOW.
I NEVER DID TRUST TECH SUPPORT GUYS.

THEY HAVEN'T ACTIVELY USED THE UNDERNET FOR DECADES.
I HELPED THEM WITH LEGACY CODE...
...AND THEY GAVE ME SANCTUARY WHEN THE GENOCIDE PROJECT CAME AFTER ME.
BUT I'M NOT LOYAL TO THEM, AND I DON'T WANT THEM TO HAVE JACOB ANY MORE THAN YOU DO.
I BET WE CAN HACK ENOUGH OF THIS BASE TO GIVE HIM A FIGHTING CHANCE.
ZOEY, ARE YOU SURE?
WE'RE JOURNALISTS, NOT HACKERS.
YOU'RE A JOURNALIST, ROGER.
ME?

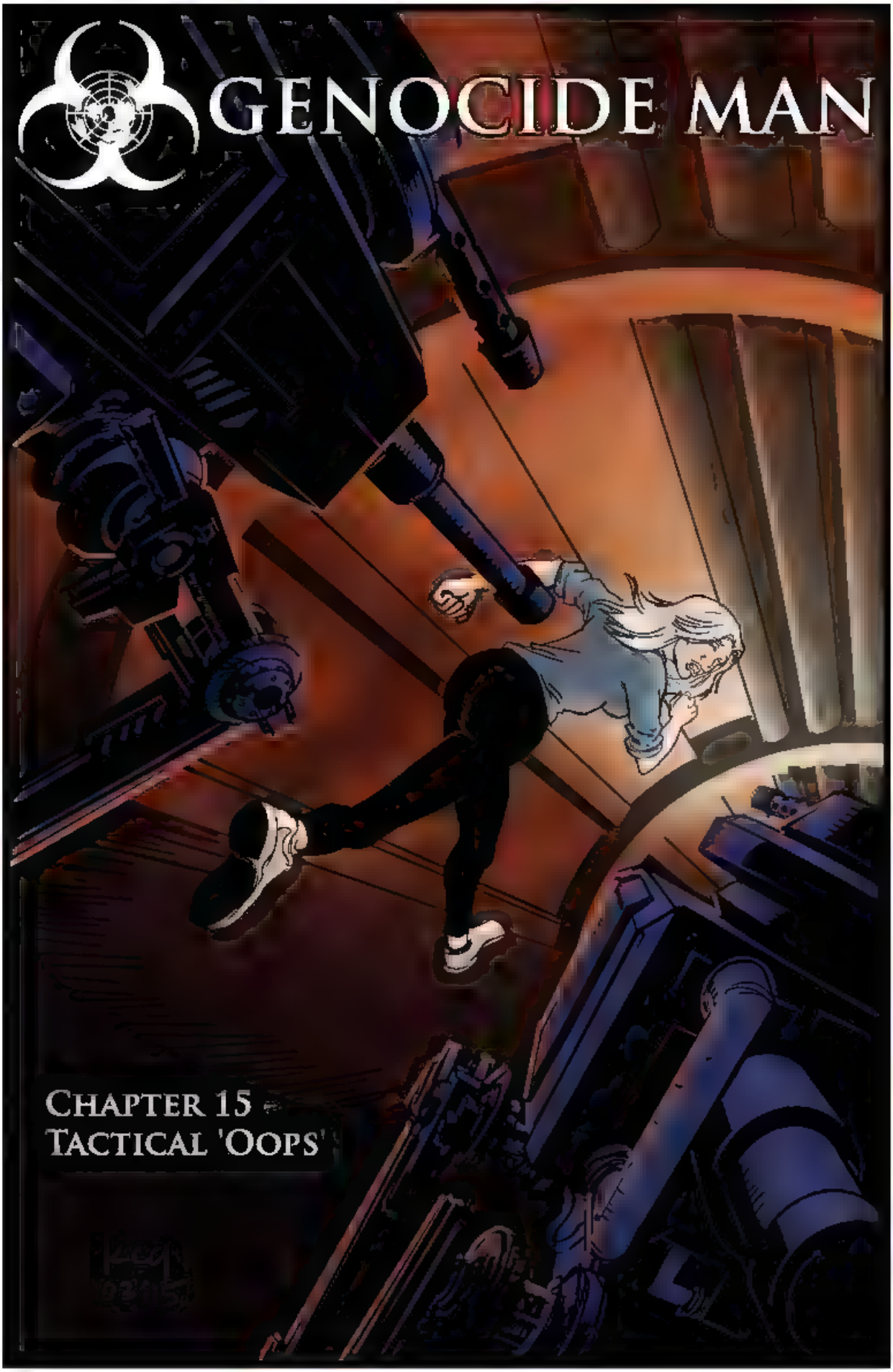
I AM THE MANIC-PIXIE BITCH-QUEEN OF THE UNDERNET!
AND I WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD.
ARE YOU WITH ME?
Y-YES!
THEN I'LL SHOW YOU A FEW TRICKS.
ABHIK USED ME AS BAIT.
LET'S MAKE HIM INTO KIBBLE.
EXIT, ARE WE SURE THAT JACOB DOE IS HERE?
YES, SHOU.
THE PLACE WAS ALREADY UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
DRONE CARRIERS ARE IN POSITION FOR ASSAULT.

EXCELLENT.
CALL IN AN ATTACK.
STRIP THE OUTER DEFENSES; I'LL HANDLE THE REST.
BEGGING PARDON, MA'AM...
...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE AUTHORITY TO DO THAT.

I LIKE YOU, SHOU.
IT TAKES A LOT OF GUTS TO THREATEN A PILOT WHEN YOU'RE FLYING AT TEN THOUSAND FEET.
NOT A LOT OF BRAINS, BUT A LOT OF GUTS.
GRR...

NEXT -- CHAPTER 15

TACTICAL 'OOPS'

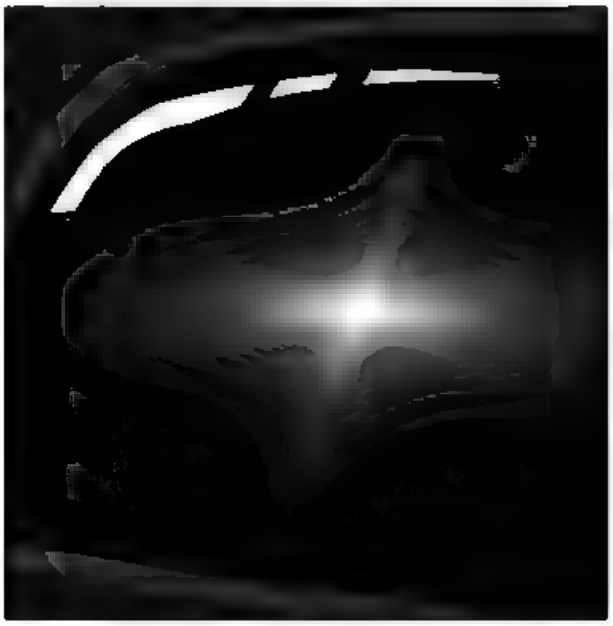

GENOCIDE MAN
CHAPTER 15 –
TACTICAL 'OOPS'

SO YES, I'M AWARE THAT THERE ARE MANY ACTIVE THREATS RIGHT NOW
THAT'S WHY THE GENOCIDE PROJECT NEEDED THE STRONGEST LEADERSHIP POSSIBLE
LEADERSHIP ISN'T THE ISSUE
CENTRALIZING ALL G U S MILITARY POWER IN ONE AGENCY IS AN ILL-CONCEIVED HISTORICAL MISTAKE
CENTRALIZED POWER ALLOWED THE WORLD TO GROW PAST THE NATION-STATE MODEL
DO YOU WANT TO RETURN TO SQUABBLING WITH EACH OTHER?
WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER TWO CENTURIES OF PLAGUE AND WAR
IF THAT'S YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL
I'LL, UH, GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT
FOR NOW, INDIA HAS NO FAITH IN THE GENOCIDE PROJECT

I INTEND TO RESTORE THAT FAITH
I HAVE SELECTED A NEW GENERATION OF MORE CONTROLLABLE GENOCIDE AGENTS
BUT BEFORE THEY ARE ACTIVE
WE FIRST NEED TO ERADICATE THE DEVIANT TERRORISTS IN FOLKESTONE
AH, THAT IS A DELICATE SITUATION
YOU CANNOT BOMB THE EUROTUNNEL
TRILLIONS OF TRADE DOLLARS PASS THROUGH IT YEARLY
I AGREE
THIS CALLS FOR A LIGHTER TOUCH
I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN
WHAT?
THE TERRORISTS ARE IN CHARGE OF SOME MAINTENANCE TUNNELS
I'VE INSTRUCTED THE MAIN RAIL TO KEEP FUNCTIONING
THAT'S NOT WISE GERRAUD
THEY COULD BE BRINGING IN SUPPLIES
OR SURFACE OUT TO PERFORM OTHER ACTIVITIES
IF THEY ESCAPE, YOU'LL CATCH THEM
THAT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, ISN'T IT?

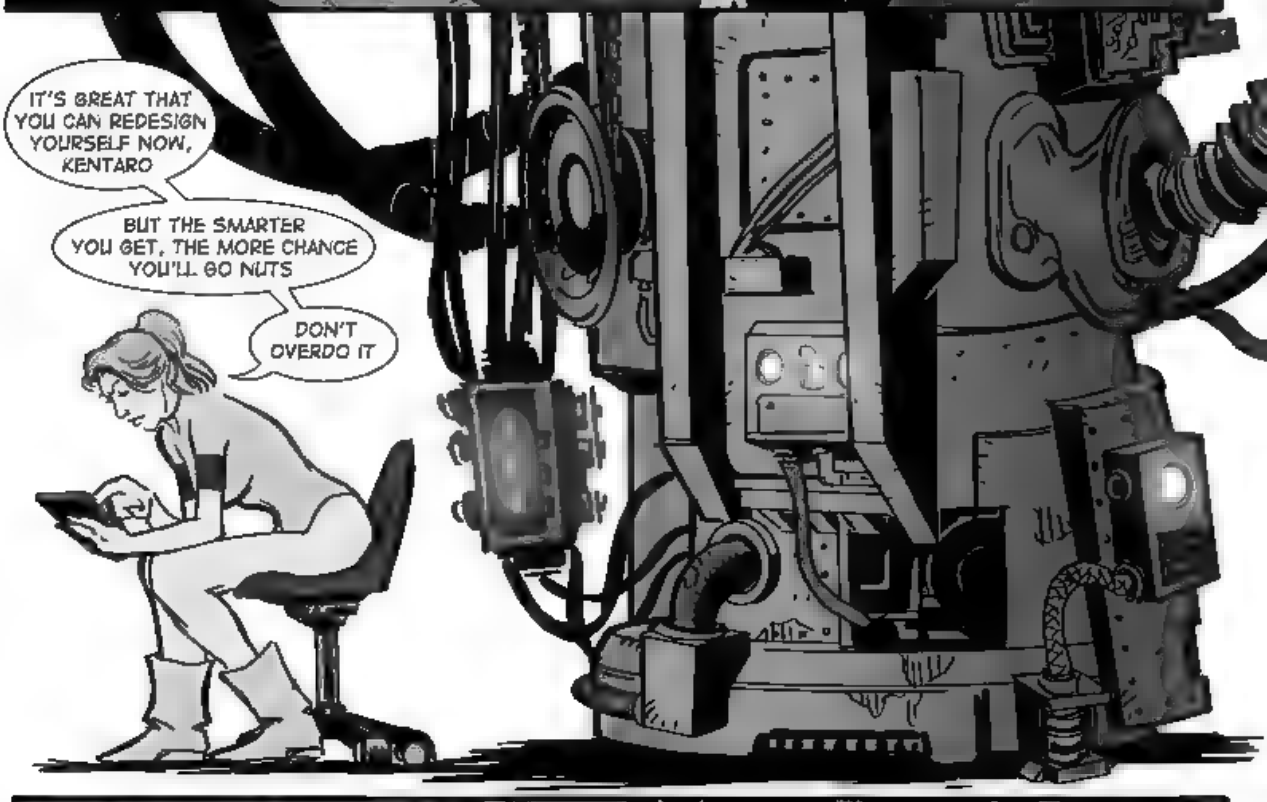
YES WELL
IN ANY CASE, THE SITUATION WILL BE RESOLVED SOON
GOOD LET'S WAIT FOR THAT OUTCOME, THEN
THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPORT, DOCTOR LAMB

AND LOLA?
GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK

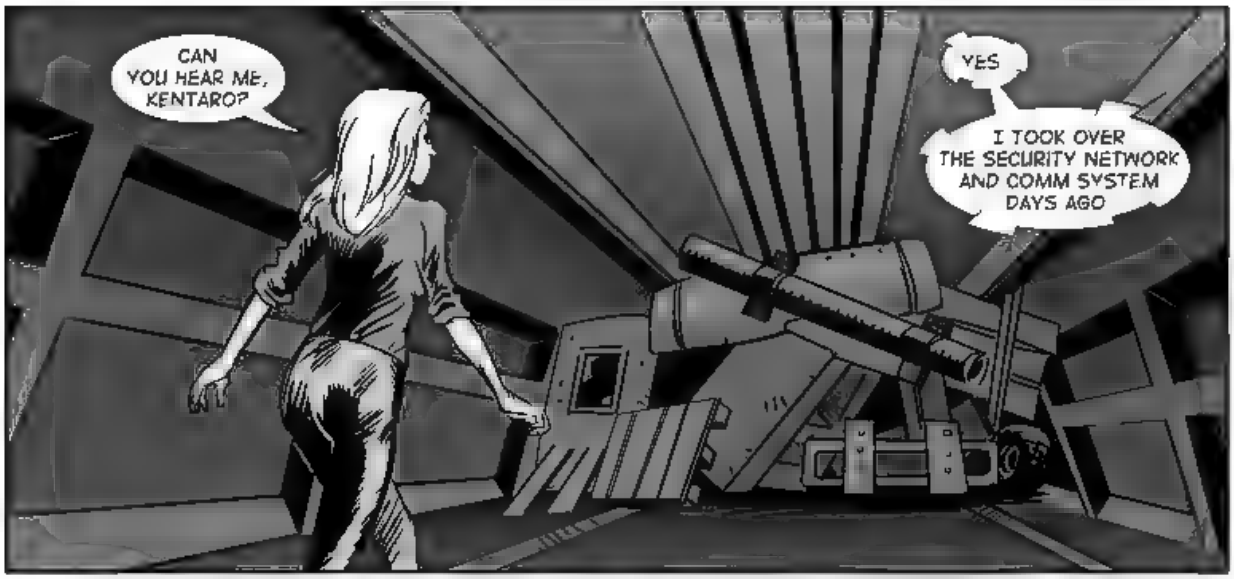


LEARN TO DO WITHOUT ME, STEFANO
OR GO TO HELL, ALL OF YOU

THEY'RE COMING, GIRL!
BOTH DRONES AND SOLDIERS
OKAY
LET'S, UH, FOLLOW THE PLAN, I GUESS
IT'LL WORK I PROMISE


IT'S GREAT THAT YOU CAN REDESIGN YOURSELF NOW, KENTARO
BUT THE SMARTER YOU GET, THE MORE CHANCE YOU'LL GO NUTS
DON'T OVERDO IT

HE KNOWS THE RISKS, SALLY
YOU JUST WATCH OVER ENRIQUE
ENRIQUE'S TURNING INTO SOUP
WHO WANTS TO WATCH THAT?
AT LEAST HE'S NOT GOING STIR CRAZY
I'M HOPING THAT I CAN KICK SOME ASS JUST TO RELIEVE THE BOREDOM


CAN YOU HEAR ME, KENTARO?
YES
I TOOK OVER THE SECURITY NETWORK AND COMM SYSTEM DAYS AGO

WHOA
THEY'RE CUTTING THROUGH THE NEXT BARRICADE
CAREFUL, THERE ARE GAPS

I SAW MOVEMENT
GOT A TRACE, THIRTY METERS AHEAD
SEND THE DRONES OVER THERE THEY DON'T MISS

KENTARO?
I HAVE THEIR FREQUENCY
JUST FIGURING OUT THE PROTOCOL

THERE
KENTARO!

CHITTER
WHAT THE --?
KA-CHK
WHIRR-IT
CHITTER
KER-KLNK

BASE?
WE MAY HAVE A GLITCH HERE

HEY! DON'T MOVE!
YOU DON'T WANT TO SHOOT ME
MORE IMPORTANTLY

THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SHOOT ME

BASE, THERE'S AN A . !
THE DRONES HAVE BEEN
QUIET
GO HOME

TELL YOUR BOSSES NOT TO SEND ANYONE ELSE
OH
AND THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I NEED FROM YOU

THEY'RE COMING SALLY
WHAT?
DAMN IT, I KNEW WE WERE ALL GONNA DIE DOWN HERE
NO, THAT'S NOT WHO I MEANT

EVERYTHING'S OKAY IT'S JUST ME AND OUR NEW FRIENDS
HOPEFULLY THIS BOUGHT US TIME TO START PHASE TWO
AS MY MA USED TO SAY --
WE MAY BE ON THIN ICE BUT AT LEAST WE'RE DANCING

JACOB?
SHH, KEEP IT DOWN
ROGER? BEEN WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I'VE TRAINED THIS GUARD TO IGNORE ME
HE'S TUNED ME OUT
HAVE YOU HACKED INTO MY LUNCH?
THE COMMISSARY USES R.F. TAGS TO KEEP TRACK OF ITS TABLEWARE
ZOEY HACKED THE ALARM SPEAKER
HI, MR. DOE!
CLEVER
SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?
WE'RE GOING TO SCREW UP EVERY SYSTEM ON THE BASE
YOUR DOOR WILL UNLOCK, SECURITY WILL GO OFFLINE
IT'LL ONLY LAST A FEW MINUTES CAN YOU MAKE IT TO THE AIRSTRIP?
THINK SO WHEN?
IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES
GOOD
DIDN'T WANT TOFU FOR DINNER ANYWAY

HEY, HE...A
BUDDY
TABRONIE
HEY, HEY, BRO
CHUM
HEY, SOOMBAH
WHAT?

I HAVE STORIES FROM EVERY WAR IN THE LAST CENTURY
IF YOU HAD, SAY, FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES TO LIVE
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT?

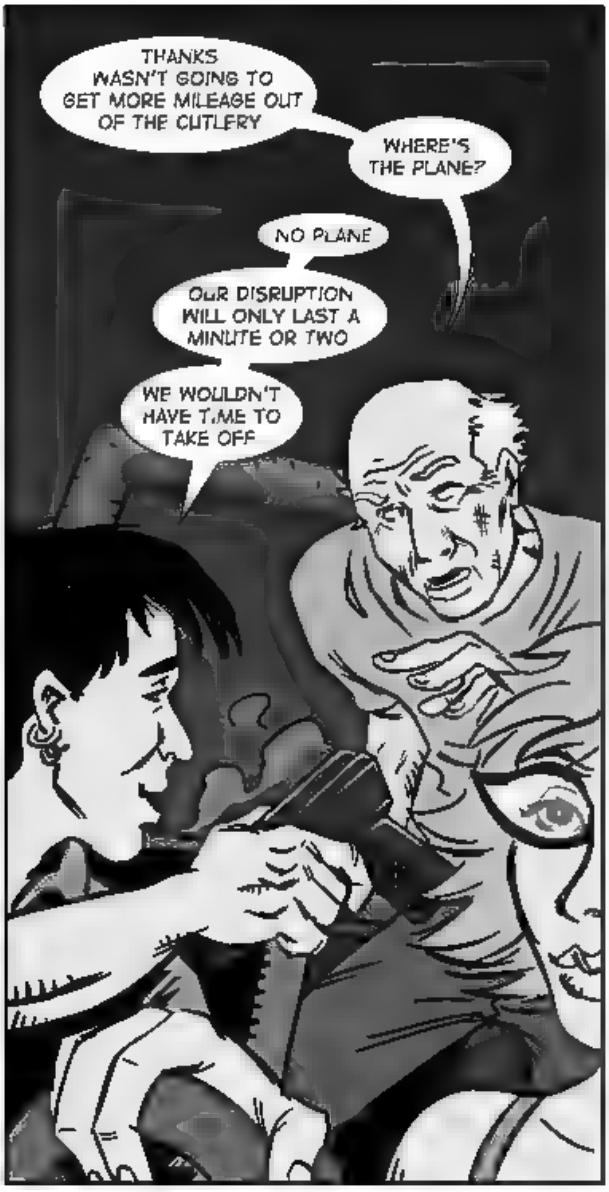
NOTHING I'D WANT YOU TO STAY QUIET FOR ONCE

HAVE IT YOUR WAY

DO YOU THINK HE'LL MAKE IT?
YOU'VE SEEN MY FOOTAGE, HAVEN'T YOU?
YEAH

BUT LAST TIME JACOB FOUGHT THE BRAHMIN
AT LEAST HE HAD A WEAPON
DOESN'T MATTER
JACOB WILL FIND SOMETHING

HUH YOU WERE RIGHT
HEY, JACOB
WE SNAGGED YOUR RAILGUN


THANKS WASN'T GOING TO GET MORE MILEAGE OUT OF THE CUTLERY
WHERE'S THE PLANE?
NO PLANE
OUR DISRUPTION WILL ONLY LAST A MINUTE OR TWO
WE WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE OFF

WE'RE DRIVING OUTTA HERE
VROOM, VROOM!
WAIT A MINUTE

SHOU, SADDLE UP!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING AT THE DEVIANT BASE!

THEIR AIR DEFENSES ARE DOWN
THE PROJECT IS SENDING IN THE DRONES.
AND THEY'VE GIVEN YOU THE GO-AHEAD TO FIND DOE

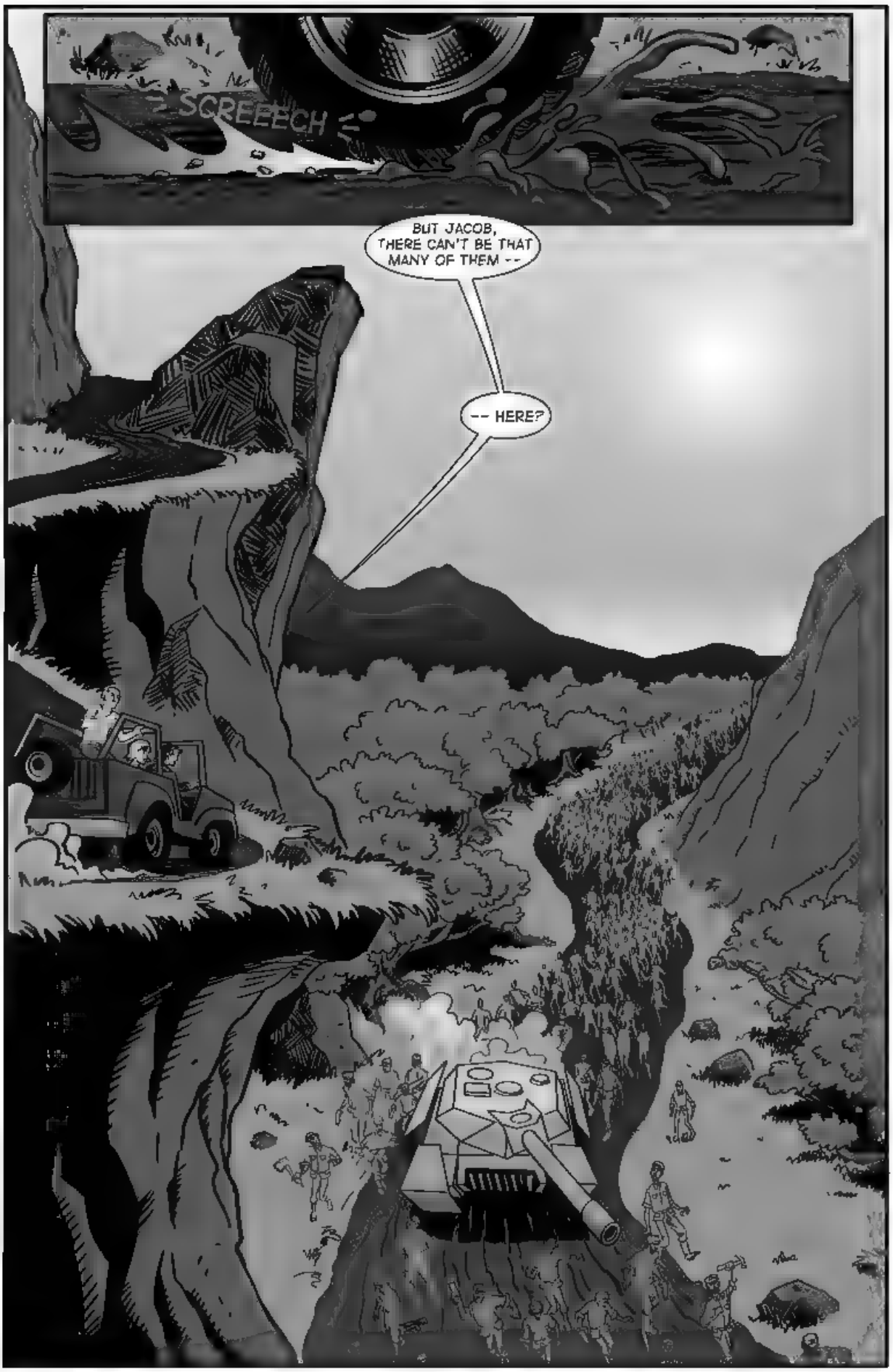
YOU WANT TO GO IN NOW, OR AFTER THE PLACE IS RUBBLE?
DURING THE STRIKE IS FINE, IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT
I AM

SO WHAT IS THE PLAN?
THERE'S A TOWN CALLED NAMGIA JUST OVER THE BORDER

WE CAN HIDE OUT THERE FOR AWHILE
MAYBE FIND AN ABANDONED PLANE
OR JUST HIDE CHINA'S A BIG COUNTRY

WHOA, WHOA
WE ARE NOT CROSSING THE BORDER INTO CHINA
WHY NOT?
THE JIAN SHI, THAT'S WHY NOT!

JACOB, YOU CAN HANDLE A FEW ZOMBIES
THE JIAN SHI AREN'T ZOMBIES
THEY'RE A NEW SPECIES OF HUMANITY
THEY WERE A FAILED SUPERSOLDIER PROGRAM.
STRONG AND HIGHLY INFECTIOUS
WITH NO MEMORY OF THEIR FORMER LIVES
BUT THEY BAND TOGETHER AND SWARM WHEN THREATENED
THEY HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE AND AGRICULTURE
THEY EVEN BREED TRUE
AND THERE ARE 100 MILLION OF THEM
THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE GENOCIDE PROJECT IS TO STAY AWAY


SCREEECH
BUT JACOB, THERE CAN'T BE THAT MANY OF THEM --
-- HERE?

TH-THAT'S AN ARMY.
THAT'S A ZOMBIE ARMY.
BUT ABHIK SAID THAT HE DROVE AWAY THE LOCAL POPULATION!
SIGH
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY'RE HERE.
IF ABHIK HAS BEEN POKING AT THEM...
...THEY'D COUNTER-ATTACK AS SOON AS THEY SAW TROUBLE AT THE BASE.

THAT'S A TANK.
THERE ARE ZOMBIES DRIVING A TANK!
I HATE TO ASK, JACOB, BUT CAN YOU FIX THIS?
THEY SAY GENOCIDE MEN WERE DESIGNED TO FIGHT ARMIES...
...IS THAT JUST HYPE?
NOT HYPE.

BUT WE DO IT WITH SUPPORT...
...AND WE DO IT BY DECAPITATING THE COMMAND STRUCTURE.
I DOUBT THE JIAN SHI HAVE OFFICERS OR SUPPLY LINES.

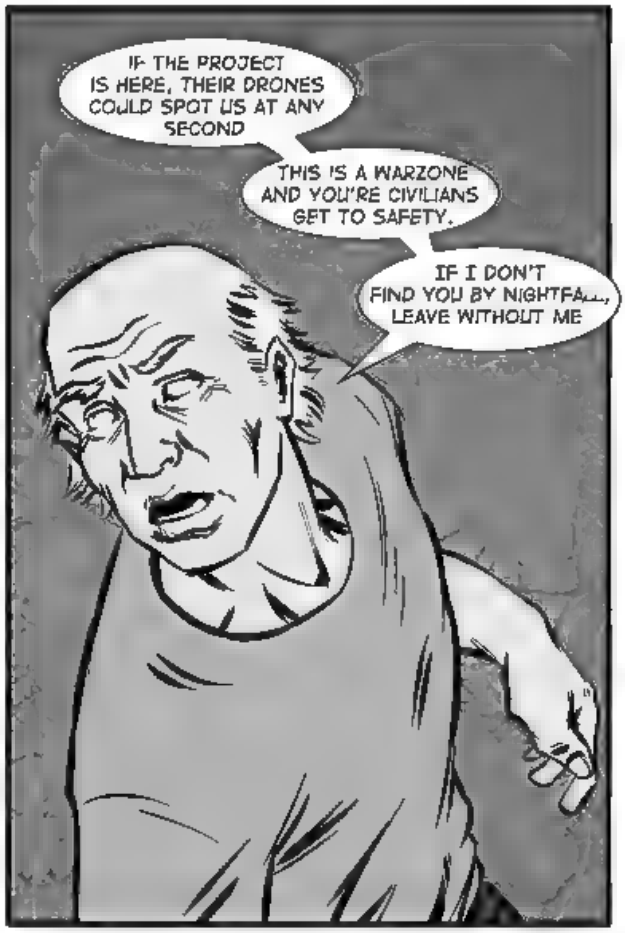
RRGGHRAARR...
"ALL RIGHT, YOU NOODLES, LISTEN UP!"
RRAARRGGLURRRRGHH...
"TODAY WE WILL STRIKE BACK AGAINST THE WICKED SMOOTHSKINS AND PUSH INTO THEIR LANDS TO CONVERT MORE TO OUR WAY OF LIFE. WE DO THIS NOT JUST FOR VENGEANCE, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT IS OUR DESTINY, BUT FOR THE GLORY OF ALL OUR PEOPLE. EACH OF YOU HAVE THE TRAINING, THE DRIVE, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THE HEART TO FACE A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS US AND WANTS ONLY THE DESTRUCTION OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. FIGHT TRUE, BRAVE WARRIORS, AND I PROMISE THAT YOU SHALL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED IN MYTH AND SONG!"
RAAARRHH!
"WE'RE WITH YOU SARGEANT!"
RARGGHLL!
"FOR GLORY, HOME AND COUNTRY!"
GRAAARRRL!
"HIT 'EM HARD NO MERCY TODAY!
RARRG
"BRAAAAINS"

JACOB, PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVE A PLAN
I DO
WE GO BACK AND THROW OURSELVES ON ABHIK'S MERCY
THEN WE HELP DEFEND THE BASE FROM THE JIAN SHI
NO WAY LET THE ZOMBIES HAVE THEM

ABHIK HAS THE ONLY CURE FOR FUMIAKI'S PLAGUE
WHICH MIGHT KILL OFF THE ENTIRE WORLD
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THAT BASE HAS TO REMAIN STANDING

WHAT THE HELL?
WHY DOES EVERYTHING KEEP EXPLODING?
DO EITHER OF YOU HAVE A CAMERA ON THE BASE?
OH, YEAH
YEAH
CRAP THERE'S DOZENS OF DRONES.
AND JACOB THAT GENOCIDE AGENT WHO ATTACKED THE ISLAND IS HERE
IT'S A HELL OF A MESS

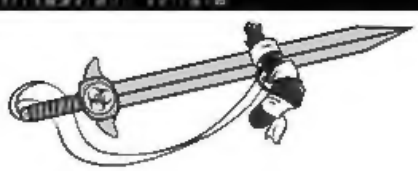
YOU TWO GET UNDER COVER
TRY TO FIND A WAY OFF THE CONTINENT
I'LL HANDLE THIS
BUT


IF THE PROJECT IS HERE, THEIR DRONES COULD SPOT US AT ANY SECOND
THIS IS A WARZONE AND YOU'RE CIVILIANS GET TO SAFETY.
IF I DON'T FIND YOU BY NIGHTFALL, LEAVE WITHOUT ME

IF THE BASE DEFENSES ARE DOWN, WE CAN HIJACK AN AUTO-JET!
WHAT IF THEY'RE ALL DESTROYED?
THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND HANGAR IT'S WORTH A SHOT

GOING BACK TO THE BASE IS NOT BEING 'SAFE'!
EH, THEY'RE CLEVER, THEY'LL BE FINE

NEXT -- CHAPTER 16...



...EITHER WAY

GENOCIDE MAN
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CHAPTER 16 -
...EITHER WAY...

SHOU, THIS IS EXIT.
WE'VE SIGHTED JACOB DOE.
WHERE?
ABOUT FIVE KLICKS NORTHEAST OF YOU.
CAN'T MISS HIM, I THINK HE WANTS TO BE SEEN.
DO I HAVE PERMISSION TO ENGAGE HIM?
OH, ARE WE ASKING PERMISSION NOW?
LET ME ASK.

DIRECTOR LAMB SAYS THAT PERMISSION IS GRANTED, SHOU.

EXIT --
WHY ISN'T LOLA TALKING TO ME DIRECTLY?
GOOD QUESTION. I'LL ASK THAT ONE ALSO.

GRR.
NEVERMIND.
GOING RADIO SILENT AND MOVING TO ENGAGE.